



July 15, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

The USO (United Services Organization) is a charitable non-profit organization chartered by Congress and endorsed both by the President of the United States and the Department of Defense. We provide morale, welfare and recreation services to uniformed military personnel.

The USO of Metropolitan Washington (USO-Metro), the metropolitan DC chapter of USO, believes it would be a grave mistake to add regulatory assessments to enhanced prepaid calling cards. Today, 95 percent of US soldiers rely on prepaid calling cards to stay in touch with their families and friends. The annual "Operation Phone Home" and the Operation USO Care Package (OUCP), both programs sponsored by the USO, has shown us first hand how powerful prepaid calling cards can be in keeping morale up. OUCP, administered by USO-Metro on behalf of USO, has delivered over 300,000 calling cards to the troops deployed in the war on terrorism. Increasing phone rates for our troops during a time of war is unthinkable and contrary to the best interests of our military.

In August 2003, the USO wrote in support of AT&T's enhanced prepaid calling card petition (Docket 03-133). We are writing to add our voice to the opposition to regulatory fees that would increase the cost of prepaid calling cards used widely throughout the military.

Your careful consideration in this matter is great appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine B. Rogers".

Elaine B. Rogers
President

Cc: Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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